THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) In a resolution passed at the Workshop on women with disabilities organised by a NGO in October, 1996 it was, inter-alia resolved that atleast 5% reservation of seats for disabled women in the Parliament, State Legislatures and local bodies be allocated.

(c) Since the subject regarding reservation to Parliament and Assemblies is not dealt in this Ministry, the resolution has been referred to the separate Ministry.

Difficulties Faced by the Employees of PSUs opting for Voluntary Retirement

2388. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of employees of Public Sector Undertakings who opted for voluntary retirement scheme became paupers after some time;

(b) if so, whether Govt. propose to take measures like providing some training to acquire technical skill or social security through pension so that they are not reduced to poverty; and

(c) the other measures Govt. are taking to help the workers?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) In order to safeguard the interest of the employees who availed of Voluntary Retirement Scheme with the assistance of National Renewal Fund, the Govt. have been providing counselling, retraining and redeployment assistance to workers rationalised after July, 1991 through Employee Assistance Centres, set up by Nodal Agencies in 49 locations spread over 16 States.

Setting up of major industries in the North-Eastern Region

2389. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to set up major industries in the North-East during the next five years period; and

(b) if so, the types of industries proposed to be set up and the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) A comprehensive package for North-East is under preparation.

Trade with Romania

2390. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Romania and India propose to take appropriate steps for creating institutional mechanism to treble the trade turnover by 2000 A.D. and to catalyse the Romanian investments into India showing negative trend since collapse of the Eastern Europe;

(b) if so, details thereof with background;

(c) whether the two countries have also agreed to set up ware-house in each other's country;

(d) whether the two countries have also agreed for marketing of the items in the third world countries besides setting up of joint venture projects in the power and petroleum sectors and Railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof with initiatives to be taken by India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The Government of India and the Government of Romania have taken appropriate steps for creating institutional and other mechanisms to increase the

bilateral trade and also to catalyse the investment into each other's country. Some of the initiatives taken by both the governments include

(i) All trade in hard currency, on internationally competitive pricing and norms;

(ii) Extension of Mutual-Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment;

(iii) Encouragement to direct business level contacts, for example through trade fairs, and exhibitions, exchange of delegations, joint business councils, etc.;

(iv) Promotion of joint ventures and other forms of economic co-operation;

(v) Encouragement counter-trades and its variants;

(vi) Setting up of joint commission, joint committees and holding of these meetings;

(vii) Encouragement to better quality control;

(viii) Promotion of consignment exports and creation/leasing of warehousing facilities;

(ix) Encouragement of exchange of commercial visits;

(x) Encouraging setting up of infrastructure facilities like joint venture banks etc.

(c) both the countries are working out on the possibilities of setting up warehouses in each others country.

(d) and (e) Efforts are being made to avail of and explore the possibilities in this area.

Mobile Vans provided to Cater to RPDS in Thane Distt. of Maharashtra

2391. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blocks in Thane district of Maharasthra where mobile vans have been provided to cater to RPDS;

(b) whether any evaluation of the success of the above scheme in Thane district has been made; and

(c) whether Government intend to provide more vans to the above district by removing budgetary constraints?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Government of Maharashtra have reported that 21 mobile vans have been provided to Thane District.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Funds are provided to State Governments, who in turn decide the district-wise allocation.

Expansion of Bauxite Mines and Aluminium Refineries of NALCO

2392. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the expansion of the bauxite mines and aluminium refineries of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO);

(b) whether Government have approved the plan in this regard; and

(c) if so, the duration by which the expansion programme is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) The proposal of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) to expand the capacity of Bauxite Mines from 2.4 Million Tonnes Per year (MTPY) to 4.8 MTPY and Alumina Refinery from 0.8 MTPY to 1.575 MTPY, both situated at Damanjodi, at an investment of Rs. 1664.60 crores (June, 1996 price level) has been approved by the